

FOLDING KEYBOARD FOR AN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE

Abstract

A miniature keyboard for a palm held computer is disclosed. The miniature keyboard includes a plurality of keys for providing input to a hand held computing device. The keyboard includes a platform supporting the plurality of keys. The platform is configured to be sized for use by a single hand and the platforms is selectively foldable to substantially conceal the plurality of keys from view. The keyboard also includes a support structure that couples the platform to the hand held computing device body. The support structure is configured to prevent substantial movement of the platform relative to the hand held computing device body. A handheld electronic communications device is also disclosed. The handheld electronic communications device comprises a housing supporting communication electronics and a display. The housing has a periphery. A first platform is integrated into the housing and supports a first set of keys. The first set of keys is a subset of a full set of alphabetic keys. The full set of alphabetic keys comprises raised key buttons. A second platform supporting a second

set of keys is further disclosed. The second set of keys is a subset of the full set of alphabetic keys. A hinge is coupled between the first platform and the second platform. The hinge allows movement of the second platform from a first position to a second position. The second platform in the first position is within the periphery.